(in lakh tons)

Year	Allocation	Offtake
2005-06	22.67	15.07
2006-07	21.94	14.98
2007-08	21.78	18.35
2008-09 (upto December, 2008)	12.85	13.67

Against 40.63 lakh BPL/AAY families estimated on the basis of the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and population projection of the Registrar General of India as on 1.3.2000, the State Government has issued ration cards to 189.30 lakh BPL/AAY house holds.

The allocation of TPDS kerosene is being made by Government (Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas) to States and UTs on historical basis for the purpose of cooking and illumination only. Allocation of annual quota of TPDS kerosene is being made by the Government to States and UTs on quarterly basis. Distribution of the TPDS kerosene within the States and UTs is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments and UT Administrations. Scale of distribution of the TPDS kerosene per cardholder varies from State to State, as decided by the concerned State Government/UT Administration.

Rise in import of pulses

605. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in import of pulses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase domestic production of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Details of import of pulses as per data received from DGCIS is as follows:

Year	Import of pulses (lakh tonne)
2006-07	24.9
2007-08	29.5
2008-09 (April-August)	8.44

SOURCE: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S)

(b) In order to augment the domestic availability of pulses, Government has permitted import of pulses at zero duty. In addition, Government has permitted PSU's namely STC, PEC Ltd., MMTC and NAFED to import 1.5 million tonnes of pulses with reimbursement of losses up to 15% of landed cost and service charge of 1.2% of CIF value.

(c) Government is implementing several Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancement of agriculture production including pulses. Some of the major initiatives and steps taken by the Government are:-

1. **National Food Security Mission (NFSM)**: The National Development Council on 29th May, 2007 adopted a resolution to launch a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Food Security Mission. NFSM has been launched in 312 identified districts of 17 States from Rabi 2007-08. The NFSM, inter alia, covers Pulses. Its target is to increase production of pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan.

2. **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana**: A new State Plan scheme of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Agriculture & Allied Sectors namely Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been launched during 2007-08 with an outlay of Rs.25,000 crore for the 11th Five Year Plan to enhance investment in agriculture and allied sectors. The broad objective of the scheme is to incentivize the States to increase public investment to achieve 4% growth rate in Agriculture and allied sectors in the 11th Five Year Plan.

3. **Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm & Maize (ISOPOM)**: ISOPOM is implemented in 14 major Oilseeds and Pulses growing States viz; Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Under ISOPOM, assistance is given to the States to encourage farmers to grow pulses on a large scale.

4. **Increased Budgetary Outlay**: The actual expenditure on Agriculture and allied sector was Rs 22,000 crore in the 10th Plan. Government has increased the Central Government outlay on Agriculture and allied sector to Rs 87,000 crore in 11th Plan.

Review of ban on future trading of foodgrains

606. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is likely to review ban on future trade on foodgrains;

(b) if so, the facts and the details thereof;

(c) whether prices of agricultural commodities are likely to rise, if ban on future trade on foodgrains is lifted; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Forward Markets Commission had suspended futures trading in commodities namely tur, urad, wheat and rice in 2007. Subsequently, futures trading in chana, soy oil, potato and rubber were also suspended in May, 2008 till November, 2008. The suspension of futures trading chana, soy oil, potato and rubber has not been extended after November, 2008.

(c) No Sir, the Government had set up an expert committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to examine whether futures market was responsible for rise in the price of agricultural commodities. The Committee observed that the period during which futures trading has been in operation is too short to make any conclusive assessment regarding the impact of futures trading on the spot prices of commodities. Futures market only provides a platform for price discovery and is not *per-se* responsible for any rise/fall in the price of any commodity.

(d) Does not arise.